

the authors in identifying cheyletid mites taken in commonplace situations." It would be a blessing to acarologists if such difficulties always yielded such useful evolutionary results!

The five-page introduction gives some taxonomic and morphological background and is followed by a key to the genera, based upon females only. Males, for reasons given on page 5, are not dealt with in this study. Each genus and species is then discussed individually, with synonymies, definitions, comments, collection and type data, and carefully constructed keys. The figures, ample and well drawn in a fine-lined but somewhat sketchy style, are printed on glossy paper forming the last 60 pages of the book. Most figures are accompanied by 100-micron scales. One new genus (*Laeliocheyletia*) and 12 new species are described. One who delights in knowing the etymological origins of scientific names will regret that this information is not given for the new taxa.

The basis for the arrangement of genera is not specified, and the introduction states that "students of this group of mites are as yet unable to assess the phylogenetic implications of external characters." The sequence chosen, however, seems to proceed from more generalized to the more modified forms. The treatment in general is conservative, and taxonomic departures from the views of previous workers (chiefly consolidation of some of Volgin's genera) are taken only after careful consideration.

There is a bibliography of 118 titles, and an index of species arranged alphabetically according to their respective genera. The book is well edited, beautifully and legibly printed by letterpress on good quality paper. Those who use the keys will appreciate the excellent binding that allows the opened book to lie flat on the table. The price, by current standards, is not excessive. Acarologists will long be grateful to Summers and Price for this fine monograph.

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Springtime in Britain. Edwin Way Teale. 1970. 391 pp., 38 black and white photographs. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. \$7.50.

Gerard Manley Hopkins once wrote:

*What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.*

The Teales found many days that were wet in their 11,000 miles of travel, criss-crossing Britain from Land's End, on the southwestern tip of the Cornish peninsula, to northern Pentland Firth where John de Groot's ferry sailed three centuries or more ago. And there in that ancient land, the home of their fathers, they found a certain wildness, too, seeing it with fresh eyes and perceiving it with the wisdom garnered from their rich background. They are intimately acquainted with the great natural history writers of England's past: Gilbert White, Henry W. Bates, W. H. Hudson, Lord Grey of Fallodon, and others: and with many lesser ones—lesser in widespread popularity but not in the expression of their love for the English countryside. Some of these writers were aristocrats; others were peasants; others, eccentrics; but all had helped the Teales prepare for this springtime journey. The Teales visited their homes, followed the same badger trails, and stood in the shade of the same giant yew, "a century old when King Alfred was alive."

The Teales were seeing Britain for the first time. Their eyes were quick to note the infinite range in color of the thatched roofs; to catch the race of the bore in the Severn Estuary; and to glimpse the diamond-shaped stones in an old farm building, cut like the

ancient roof tiles on the Roman villa newly excavated at Rockbourne. Their ears could hear the truncated call of one wee lamb in a bleating flock, as well as the high-pitched song of the grasshopper warbler, inaudible to many human ears. They found the little bog orchid hidden in the sphagnum moss on Dartmoor, seen only twice in 85 years; and they counted the swifts flying over the church in Selbourne as they had been counted by Gilbert White in 1778.

The book contains a wealth of miscellaneous information ranging from the quirks of pampered geese to the composition of the Sarsen sandstone on the Marlborough Downs. The words are precise but the phrases flow "as a frog slips into a summer's pond;" and the sentences illuminate and encompass: "All up and down our beach of shells, under a sun that sank so slowly it seemed standing still in the northwestern sky, a pair of nesting ringed plovers flitted above us, uttering soft and anxious cries."

Springtime In Britain is to be savored—a chapter at a time. It is not a travelogue, but in reading it you come to such terms of intimacy with Britain, its history, its poets, and its countryside that you feel that you have been traveling with Ed and Nellie Teale. However, you will want to have a map beside you as you read, for the one provided on the end papers shows only their route and is inadequate. The index is excellent; and the 38 black and white photographs, all taken by the author, superb. For this reviewer the picture of Hudson's seat on the tor above Zennor is unforgettable; and that of the 13 white-faced heifers, pressed side by side, watching the Teales rowing down the Avon, is linked forever with the benediction on that day's sojourn. "For us, Shakespeare's river will flow, without ceasing, through an unending English spring."

This book will stand for all time beside the well-loved works of the great English naturalists.

ELSIE B. KLOTS

BUTTERFLY SPECIMENS WANTED

W. V. Krivda (P.O. Box 864, the Pas, Manitoba, Canada) wishes to obtain short series of uncommon indigenous butterflies. Locality and condition of specimens is not important.

In exchange he can offer *Colias gigantea mayi* and other northern species available in season.